

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article obtained by pressure-molding a powdery inorganic binder material, comprising:

flattening the surface of the powdery inorganic binder material by applying vibration to the powdery inorganic binder material, disposing a colored material consisting of the same material as the inorganic binder material and colored by a color different from a color of the powdery inorganic binder material on the surface of the inorganic binder material, and then pressure-molding the powdery inorganic binder material and the colored material to thereby form a pattern on the surface of the molded article.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article obtained by pressure-molding a powdery inorganic binder material, comprising:

charging the powdery inorganic binder material in a bottom mold of a pressure-molding apparatus, flattening the surface of the powdery inorganic

binder material by applying vibration to the powdery inorganic binder material, disposing a colored material consisting of the same material as the inorganic binder material and colored by a color different from a color of the powdery inorganic binder material on the surface of the inorganic binder material, and then pressure-molding the powdery inorganic binder material and the colored material to thereby form a pattern on the surface of the molded article.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein a base substrate with the colored material coated on the surface thereof is disposed on the flattened surface of the inorganic binder material in such a state that the surface of the base substrate is in abutment with the surface of the base substrate and then pressure is applied to the inorganic binder material and the inorganic binder material and the colored material together with the base substrate.

4. (Original) The method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article as claimed in claim 3, wherein a design is drawn in advance on the back surface of a transparent base substrate, the design being substantially identical in shape to the pattern to be formed on the surface of the molded article, and the colored material is coated on the surface of the base substrate along the design.

5. (Original) A method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article obtained by pressure-molding an inorganic binder material, comprising:

disposing a colored material colored by a color different from a color of the inorganic binder material on the back surface of a base substrate, then disposing a powdery inorganic binder material on the back surface of the base substrate, pressure-molding the powdery inorganic binder material together with the base substrate, and separating the molded article from the base substrate to thereby form a pattern on the surface of the molded article.

6. (Original) The method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article as claimed in claim 5, wherein a transparent base substrate is used as the base substrate, a design having a shape substantially identical to the pattern to be formed on the surface of the molded article is drawn on the back surface of the transparent base substrate, and the colored material is disposed along the design on the surface of the molded article.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 and 9, wherein the colored material is prepared by adding a pigment to an aqueous solution of the inorganic binder material.

8. (Original) The method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article as claimed in claim 7, wherein adhesive is added to the colored material.

9. (New) The method for forming a pattern on the surface of a molded article as claimed in claim 2, wherein a base substrate with the colored material coated on the surface thereof is disposed on the flattened surface of the inorganic binder material in such a state that the surface of the base substrate is in abutment with the surface of the base substrate and then pressure is applied to the inorganic binder material and the inorganic binder material and the colored material together with the base substrate.